

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7434

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 0379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NL, XT

SUBJECT: ELSINORE MEETING OF EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

REF: (A) COPENHAGEN 230, (B) ROME 1037, (C) LONDON 1022

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1. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY OF DUTCH LABOR PARTY VAN DEN BERGH HAS GIVEN EMBOFF HIS IMPRESSIONS OF ELSINORE MEETING. TO A LARGE EXTENT VAN DEN BERGH VIEWED AFFAIR AS DID OTHERS WITH WHOM EMBASSY OFFICERS ELSEWHERE HAVE SPOKEN, BUT SOME DIFFERENCES ARE APPARENT. FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS CONCERN DEBATE OVER SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COOPERATION, VALUE OF MEETING AND SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL PLI-TICS.

2. SPEAKING FROM HIS NOTES, VAN DEN BERGH SAID THAT MITTERAND LED OFF DISCUSSION ABOUT COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS BY CITING "REMARKABLE RISE" IN FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) FORTUNES AS A RESULT OF ALIGNMENT WITH FRENCH COMMUNISTS. CLAIMING HE HAD OPTED FOR THAT COURSE AS ONLY WAY TO WIN CONFIDENCE OF FRENCH WORKERS, MITTERAND SAID THAT STRATEGY HAD WORKED AND THAT POPU-LARITY OF FRENCH SOCIALIST PARTY HAD INCREASED CONSIDERABLY, WHILE FRENCH COMMUNISTS HAD SUFFERED DECLINE. FOR PS, WISDOM OF COOPERATING WITH COMMUNISTS WAS OBVIOUS, AND PARTY WOULD CONTINUE ALONG THAT PATH REGARDLESS OF OPPOSITION ELSEWHERE--EC-9, NATO, ETC. VAN DEN BERGH DESCRIBED MITTERAND'S PRESENTATION AS A PASSIONATE APPEAL FOR UNDERSTANDING.

3. SCHMIDT CAME DOWN HARD ON MITTERAND'S POSITION, SAYING HE SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF EFFECT MITTERAND'S POLICIES WOULD HAVE ON SOCIALIST PARTIES IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. (VAN DEN BERGH REMARKED AT THIS POINT THAT EVERY PARTICIPANT IN DEBATE TOOK EXTREMELY NATIONALISTIC LINE, SEEMING TO BE INTERESTED ONLY IN QUESTION AS IT RELATED TO THEIR OWN PARTIES.) PERHAPS STRONGEST POINT SCHMIDT MADE, AS FAR AS DUTCH PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL WAS CONCERNED, RELATED TO EFFECT SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COLLABORATION MIGHT HAVE ON NATO AND PARTICULARLY ON ROLE FRG WAS PLAYING IN EUROPEAN DEFENSE. SCHMIDT APPARENTLY LECTURED HIS NATO SOCIALIST COLLEAGUES ON THEIR DECLINING MILITARY BUDGETS, MENTIONING UK AND NETHERLANDS DIRECTLY, AND IMPLIED THAT THIS SITUATION ALONG WITH TENDENCY TO COOPERATE WITH COMMUNISTS IN SOUTHERN EUROPE COULD HAVE SERIOUS EFFECT ON WESTERN DEFENSE AND INTERNAL BALANCE WITHIN ALLIANCE. DEN UYL, WHO DID NOT MAKE INTERVENTION IN THIS DEBATE, WAS IMPRESSED, ACCORDING TO VAN DEN BERGH, WITH SCHMIDT'S APPARENT WARNING AGAINST LETTING TRENDS TRANSFORM NATO INTO A US-FRG-DOMINATED ALLIANCE.

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4. DUTCH DELEGATION IN GENERAL DOES NOT LIKE FORMAT OF ELSINORE-TYPE MEETINGS. THEY WOULD PREFER STAY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL, NOT SENDING OUT INVITATIONS ON A SELECTIVE BASIS BUT INCLUDING ALL MEMBER PARTIES. PRIMIN DEN UYL SUGGESTED AT CONFERENCE THAT DUTCH WOULD LIKE TO HOST A FULL-BLOWN SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL SUMMIT AS A FOLLOW-UP TO ELSINORE LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY IN 1977. VAN DEN BERGH SAID THERE WAS NO GENERAL DISCUSSION OF PROPOSAL IN MEETINGS HE ATTENDED, BUT THERE MAY HAVE

BEEN IN SESSIONS RESTRICTED TO LEADERS. FOR POLITICAL REASONS,  
DUTCH LABOR PARTY WOULD LIKE TO HOLD SUMMIT AROUND FEBRUARY 1977,JUST  
PRIOR TO NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN HOLLAND.

5. ACCORDING TO VAN DEN BERGH, BRENT CARLSSON OF SWEDEN WILL  
PROBABLY BECOME GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL  
WITH CONOR CRUISE-O'BRIEN OF IRELAND BECOMING PRESIDENT.  
APPARENTLY WILLY BRANDT WAS THE PREFERRED CHOICE OF THE SOCIALIST  
LEADERS AT EL SINORE FOR PRESIDENT, BUT HE CANNOT DEVOTE SUFFICIENT  
TIME TO THE JOB (THAT LOGIC WOULD ALSO SEEM RULE OUT CRUISE-  
O'BRIEN). DEN UYL TOLD VAN DEN BERGH THAT BRANDT WANTS TO RUN  
FOR ELECTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN 1978.  
GOULD

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